

REMARKS

Claims 5-8, 14, 20 and 25-36 are in the application, with Claims 5, 14, 20 and 25 having been amended, with Claims 1-4, 9-13, 15-19 and 21-24 having been cancelled, and with Claims 26-36 having been added. It is noted with appreciation that claims 14, 20 and 25 were found by the Examiner to recite allowable subject matter, although objected to on formal grounds. Since those three claims have now been rewritten in independent form, without change in scope, the same are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Moreover, former claims 10-13 have been replaced by new claims 26-29, which are dependent on allowable claim 14; former claims 16-19 have been replaced by new claims 30-33, which are dependent on allowable claim 20; and former claims 22-24 have been replaced by new claims 34-36, which are dependent on allowable claim 25. Apart from claims 14, 20 and 25, the only independent claim herein is rejected (and now amended) claim 5. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 5-8 are rejected as being anticipated by Smits et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,287,247 (“Smits”). To overcome this rejection, claim 5 has been amended to recite “a stack of at least three metal layers” on the back surface of the IC die. Support for this amendment is found at page 3, line 23 to page 4, line 10 of the specification. It is noted that the button 430 (considered to be a metal layer by the Examiner) of the heat sink 420 shown in Smits does not comprise a stack of at least three metal layers. It is therefore requested that the rejection of claim 5 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 6-8 are dependent on claim 5 and are submitted as patentable on the same basis as claim 5.

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New claims 26-36 were discussed in the first paragraph of these remarks and are not believed to present any issues since they are all dependent on claims that the Examiner found recited allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-3460.

Respectfully submitted,

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